

Making a Difference in DeKalb County

In addition to assisting customers with programs like the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), occasionally the opportunity comes along to work with a small property owner with a resource concern. Such is the case with Faye Sandosky who bought a historical home in Smithville. Faye wanted to restore not only the home but the grounds surrounding it.

Natalie Feeman, Student Trainee, and Mike Tatum, District Conservationist, worked with her on erosion control, grading of the lawn, and lawn fertility and establishment. The project was a complete success and Faye Sandosky was very pleased with the outcome.

‘Thank you both for the invaluable guidance you have given me as I sought solutions for the erosion and water elimination issues,’ stated Sandosky. ‘The face of my bluff is now covered in lush 8-12” tall fescue and rye as far down as I could get seed and straw. I will continue the monthly feeding you recommended. There is no evident erosion!’

‘The Geotextile fabric and rip rap are in place where the water exits over the hill’s edge, so far everything is holding and there have been a couple of very heavy downpours to test it. I spread the fabric and positioned many of the rocks myself to ensure that your ideas had a chance to fully blossom.

On the lower side of the house, we adhered to the boundaries you suggested as we placed fill dirt and graded, not disturbing the polk patch and other vegetation.

The lawn is seeded, following your lawn care brochure, and is getting lots of fine green hair! What a relief it is to have come so far and to rest confidently that experienced, knowledgeable professionals have guided the work,” said Sandosky.